

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 2

A-397

Jidda

Ambassador Hart participated in meetings during which Yemen disengagement question was paramount consideration. Ambassador Bunker departed Dhahran March 8 to return to Washington. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. Crown Prince Faysal Requests U.S. Assistance in TV Installation. In conversation with Ambassador March 6, Crown Prince FAYSAL requested USG assistance in setting up TV stations in Jidda and Riyadh with relays elsewhere. However, Saudi press March 11 reported Aramco will handle SAG TV project. (CONFIDENTIAL) proposal company has hitherto consistently resisted. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: Putting to one side question of source of SAG assistance, Embassy notes that TV project has been under active discussion within SAG since October 1962. But until now no implementing steps have been taken. Apparently Crown Prince's recent speech-making activities in various parts of country have convinced him that TV could be a useful unifying factor in Saudi Arabia; he has therefore ordered to have stations constructed as soon as possible. (CONFIDENTIAL)

STANDARD

11 Negative

PSYCHOLOGICAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 3
A-397
Jidda

12/25/74



3. U.S. Protest re Egyptian Bombings. Paralleling official announcement UAR bombing of Abha (announced March 5-6), Al-Nadwah, March 7, 9, front-paged brief news item "American Protest" re Egyptian bombing raids on Saudi territory. Al-Nadwah, March 9, gave story-lead: "Third American Protest to Egyptian Government," stating USG had "protested again to Egyptian Government, the bombing of Saudi territory by Egyptian airplanes, operating from Yemen." Noted this USG's third "protest" this subject. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Bunche Visit. Press, radio reported Bunche departure from San'a to Aden enroute Cairo meeting with Nasir. (Al-Nadwah, March 5). Also mentioned Bunche was expected to visit Saudi Arabia before returning to New York. Quoted Lebanese papers that "Dr. Bunche's mission begins where the American attempt at mediation in the Yemen dispute ended." (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. Other News. Local news concentrated on series stories striking hopeful note re development program. Al-Bilad, March 8, banner headlined "160 Gold Mines Discovered; Mining will Begin Next Summer," Al-Nadwah, March 7, "In 3 Years Steel Mills and Petroleum Chemical Factories will be Established." In an interview with Saudi Radio correspondent, Crown Prince pledged "that every promise made in his ministerial statement last November would be fulfilled." Gave as reasons for delay fact that "formation of hasty measures will not be in the interest of the people." Cited Egypt's problems and failures re planning as case in point. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Nicholas G. Teacher

Nicholas G. Teacher
Counselor of Embassy

DEPT. PASS TO: ADEN, AMMAN, ANKARA, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BEIRUT FOR MELC, BOMB FOR CINCPAC, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, FRANKFURT FOR LINDSEY AIR STATION, ATTN: DSC INTELLIGENCE DCA, HEADQUARTERS, USAREUR HEIDELBERG, KARAC, KHARTOUM, KURAT, LONDON, LONDON FOR CINCPAC, RAHAT, TATZ, TEHRAN, PARIS, PARIS FOR CINCPAC, ASHARA

CONFIDENTIAL